

# Dr M: We should be more flexible

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PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has suggested there be room for some flexibility in dealing with technicalities.

He said yesterday the country had become too bound by laws and regulations to the extent even clear-cut cases of the Government were disrupted because of minor technical problems.

Such technical problems have not only hampered the redelineating of electoral boundaries but also other government matters, he said.

"I am not suggesting we disregard the rules but in a situation like this we ought to be careful on matters relating to laws

and regulation.

"We need to accept that when problems arise merely because of technicalities we need to have some flexibility. But this is not up to me to decide," he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang on his return from official visits to Bangladesh and Pakistan.

He was commenting on the Election Commission's move recently to cancel the redelineation exercise due to some "technical" problems.

Commission chairman Datuk Harun Din had on Wednesday urged the Government to review certain laws to allow the commission to undertake another exercise.

Dr Mahathir said some of the "technicalities" in-

cluded mistakes such as dates and certain papers which did not bear a signature.

In the administration of a country, he said, some mistakes could occur and this had often led to the loss of public funds.

To a question whether the cancellation of the redelineation exercise could affect plans for the elections, he said: "I don't see any problem at all. If we wish to have an election today we can always use the current electoral constituencies.

"(DAP secretary-general) Lim Kit Siang will still not win in the elections. He will continue to fail with or without any increase in seats and even if the seats were reduced he will be defeated also," he said.